

The Columbus and Franklin County Resilience Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
July 17, 2020
NEW IN BLUE

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

1. While there is one application per organization, are organizations welcome to apply for funding in multiple investment categories? And, multiple buckets within category II? **You can apply for multiple buckets, you just need to add everything up to one request**

Total Category Two Request = Buckets A + B added together

One Grand Total Request = Category One + Category Two

2. Even though we weren't awarded a grant in January, are we able to try for the Resilience Initiative? **Yes.**
3. Are current Human Service Grant Program grantees eligible to apply? **Yes.**
4. Do mental health agencies qualify for funding, as long as we are a 501c3? **Yes.**
5. I want to confirm that these grants are for 501(c)3 agencies and as a public school district who is not designated as one, would not be eligible for funds. Is that correct? **Yes, you are correct. A public school system would not be eligible for CARES Act funds under this Request for Proposals since it is not a 501c3. I would encourage you as a public school district in Franklin County to reach out to your contacts at the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. If you have revenue loss or increased expensed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the County has other CARES Act funds that may not be designated yet and could possibly be used in some way.**
6. We have 4 centers, three in Columbus and one in Lancaster (Fairfield County). All one organization. Can we only submit expenses and revenue loss for the 3 centers in Franklin County? **Yes.**
7. Does receiving a PPP loan disqualify organizations from receiving this funding? **No. But you must clearly show no duplication of benefit and cannot apply for funding for expenses that were covered by a PPP loan.**
8. We are a brand new nonprofit organization and we are presently awaiting our 501c3 status. Would we be eligible to apply for the Resilience Initiative grants? **No. This new nonprofit is not eligible to apply funds for under this Request for Proposals. All applicants must have an approved 501c3 status and an EIN with the IRS.**
9. Does this mean unless 501c3 status is already established, a business is not eligible? **Correct. All applicants must have an approved 501c3 status and an EIN with the IRS.**
10. Can a fiscal agent work in partnership with an organization that does not have its 501c3 status? **No. All recipients of these funds must have an approved 501c3 status and an EIN with the IRS.**

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11. Are organizations that provide support to human service agencies eligible? **Yes.**
12. If you are working on getting a penalty waived for a late filing, how would that impact 'good standing' with the IRS? **Please explain in the application.**
13. Are 501c3 organizations able to apply if they have a fiscal agent? **The Applicant and Recipient of the grant must be a 501c3 organization. If, as a 501c3, you are using another organization to handle your finances (fiscal agent/sponsor), then, yes, your organization would be eligible. Please provide a brief, clear explanation in the application.**

E-CImpact

14. If we are registered with E-CImpact through United Way in another county, would we need to create a new account for Franklin County? **Yes.**
15. Are we able to have multiple users accessing the same application? In other words, multiple users per agency. **Yes, you can add users to the profile.**

TIMEFRAME FOR FUNDS AND SPENDING

16. Can an eligible expense item, e.g., a subscription to an online meeting platform, contain a subscription time period that runs beyond the 11/30/2020 grant period as long as it is paid prior to 11/30? Such as paying for a one-year subscription in August 2020? **If expended during the time period it will be eligible. As long as the cost for the subscription service is paid before 11/30, the expense is eligible.**
17. Just confirming that any funds received must be used/spent by November 30, 2020. **Yes.**
18. Is this grant retroactive to beginning March 1, 2020 for expenses already incurred? **Yes.**

REVENUE LOSSES (Category One)

19. If we wish to apply for revenue loss from fundraising events and individual donations, how far back should we look to set a benchmark? As compared to last year's fundraising? Three years' average? **Look at least one year back.**
20. Is there guidance on what constitutes documentation for revenue loss? **No. It is for the applicant to convince the reviewers of the validity of the loss in relation to Covid.**
21. If we traditionally receive support from a private foundation for a specific program and that funding was converted to general operating expense due to COVID, can that be considered lost revenue for that specific program? **No.**

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22. If we have received Covid related funding for different lost revenue than what we are applying for, do we include those funds received in this application? **Only if you complete the application looking at your Agency's TOTAL Revenue Loss inclusive of that "different lost revenue" for which you already received Covid-related funding.**
23. With regard to non-duplication of efforts, does this mean we cannot host any virtual fundraisers, if fundraising dollars is what we're trying to recoup? **No. The requirement of non-duplication applies to other FEDERAL funding.**
24. If we had planned a fundraising event to benefit a statewide program that had to be canceled, can we submit a request for the portion we anticipated raising that would have been for the benefit of our Columbus program? **Yes.**
25. Our organization is headquartered in Franklin, but we do have locations and programs throughout Ohio that have experienced lost revenue as well. When we share our amount of revenue loss and increased expenses should we only be sharing the total for franklin county services or should we include all programs throughout Ohio in that total? **Apply only for revenue loss and/or increased expenses that impacted Franklin County services.**
26. If we were not able to draw down government grant funds, is that allowable as lost revenue? **It will depend on why you were not able to draw them down.**
27. Would salaries still paid while agency was closed be considered as staff expenses? **Not for salaries already budgeted for 2020 or covered by a PPP Loan.**
28. Our staff had to implement different/unexpected new processes because of COVID costing the organization more (for more staff hours) AND losing other work they could have been doing (such as fundraising, or other farming work), does this qualify for revenue loss or extra expense? **Yes.**
29. Our organization depends 100% on private donations and volunteers, with the pandemic, both monetary donations and personal stressors (economic/health) related to the pandemic have caused decline in both sources of support for those we serve. We have largely been going without what we need because we simply don't have the resources to provide it, we can't show expenses that are unpaid, so our grant would largely be asking for the help we would like to provide, but can't right now - would that be proper under this grant? **Yes, it appears your request would largely fall under Category One "Revenue Loss". Please document anticipated expenses through 11/30. If you are able to document losses based on past contributions, you may include those going back to 3/1.**
30. How to handle events that will supposedly be happening (although very doubtful) after the deadline for application, so no way to know the revenue impact. **Do not include them**

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if you cannot document a history of obtaining revenue because of the same events in the past.

31. If a funder was unable to complete their pledge due to Covid-19, is that an allowable expense? **It would be an allowable revenue loss.**
32. Our agency conducts fee-for-service work outside the county to supplement and support local Franklin County programs, which can be offered free-of-charge as a result. Can lost revenue generated outside Franklin County, but used to support programs inside Franklin County, be included in this grant? **Yes. As long as there is a clear connection to the benefit of Columbus and Franklin County residents.**

INCREASED EXPENSES (Category Two)

33. What is considered 'hazard pay'? **Hazard pay means additional pay for performing hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship, in each case that is related to COVID-19. Duty or work does not include teleworking from home, but involves regular, in-person interaction with patients, the general public or with co-workers who perform such work. This also includes regularly physically handling items handled by patients, the public or co-workers who do that.**
34. For increased business expenses, under human resources, it lists "navigating legislation." Can you please explain what this means? For example, does it mean staff time spent analyzing legislation to educate community members about how the legislation benefits/ impacts them? **Yes, to the example, if the legislation is related to COVID-19. It is up to the applicant to both explain and justify the activity.**
35. Could we create a bonus structure for our staff to reward them for their service during COVID-19 and apply for this cost? **No.**
36. We have begun zoom calls to educate Mental Health wellness, Self-Care and Coping Strategies. We have to spend money for facilitators and other support. As an agency we are requesting volunteer services, rather than paid. Can we include it as an expected expense in the grant? **Yes.**
37. For the increased expenses for stabilization efforts - does that only apply if it is our business to supply those items such as a food pantry, furniture bank, rent assistance, etc. Or can we include an amount for those if our clients are expressing need for this and we do not have the funds to assist them? **Yes.**
38. Our staff had to implement different/unexpected new processes because of COVID costing the organization more (for more staff hours) AND losing other work they could have been doing (such as fundraising, or other farming work), does this qualify for

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revenue loss or extra expense? **Yes. You have described both revenue loss and extra expense.**

39. Our agency provided two clients with refurbished laptops so they could do job search related activities and trainings online. The cost was about \$230. Would something like this fit under the new CARES RFP? **This could be a CARES RFP expense.**

40. Is food a permissible expense in the case it is used in direct response to COVID-19, to preserve PPE (donning and doffing), limit exposure for on-site critical staff, and maintain full operational hours? **No. Food is not a permissible expense in this instance.**

OTHER SOURCES OF FEDERAL AND NONFEDERAL FUNDS

41. Do you consider PPP award as supplanting federal funds? **Yes, an applicant cannot use these CARES Act funds in place of or instead of PPP awards.**

- a. Would we need to subtract out only the forgivable portion of our PPP loan? **All PPP loan amounts need to be subtracted out.**
- b. Does this include the PPP grant and PPP loan also that may become a grant if accepted? **Yes.**
- c. Clarification: Example: If PPP paid for program A, additional funds can only be used for program B, not program A, correct? **Correct.**

42. When you say list existing funding sources, does that mean the amount of funds or where we got them from? **It means both amounts and sources.**

43. If you have made a request for other grants but they have not been awarded, do these need to be referenced? **No.**

44. Do the 2020 Human Service Grant Program dollars count as federal funding that needs to be offset in the application? **No.**

45. When documenting losses and CV19 emergency funding received - do we consider just designated funding and awards or would we count unrestricted donations/gifts from general donors (or only if designated)? **Unrestricted can also count.**

46. If we have already received a grant from the Commissioners, will that impact our opportunity to receive the CARES funds? **No.**

47. Can you clarify what grant may not supplement other federal funds means? **The word is "supplant" not "supplement". Therefore, it means that these CARES Act funds cannot be used in place of or instead of federal funds already designated for that expense or activity.**

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48. Per the RFP, we can't "supplant other federal funds received" (e.g., PPP) but can we postpone other non-federal funding in order to use CARES Act money now and those other funds post-November? **Yes, that would work.**
49. In Section One (Revenue) after the question, "Have you received City of Columbus funding to help with this revenue loss" it asks for City of Columbus "source(s)". I'm thrown because the application makes 3,000 characters available for the question which is far more than "Department of Development - COVID-19 Emergency Funding". Am I misreading? Does "Sources" refer to something else? **Did you receive any City non-federal funding to assist with a revenue loss? If so, then you are showing us how much you received and what the source was. (E.g General Fund)**
50. For the "County", we received funding from both the Board of Commissioners and Office on Aging. For "Other", we received funding from both The Columbus Foundation and the United Way. Again, am I simply listing those? **Only if those funds are specifically going to COVID-19 expenses.**
51. Will recipients of City of Columbus summer grant for youth be precluded from seeking the \$20 million grant pool? **No.**

GRANT REVIEWS AND AWARDS

52. Who sits on the External Grant Review Committee? **That is currently in process and will be announced once it is established.**
53. How will this \$\$ be allocated amongst large and small non-profits? **There are no planned target allocations.**
54. Any planned target allocations? **There are no planned target allocations.**
55. Will equity considerations be given to typically underfunded Black organizations? **CARES dollars are intended to address the impact COVID is having on communities. Because we know that COVID is disproportionately impacting communities of color, the City's human services CARES dollars will support programs serving those communities. Equity will be the foundation of our award decisions.**
56. Is there an anticipated average grant amount or projected number of awards out of the \$20 million total available? **No there is not.**

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MISCELLANEOUS

57. How do you recommend organizations who host multiple programs divide out the various programs' funding requests within the single application/funding request which is required? **It is not necessary to divide out each individual program in detail for the application. The grantee will provide that detail in the budget and scope of work in the grant agreement.**
58. Since this money is directly in response to COVID-19, will there be another grant for general Human Services? We are a recipient for 2019-2020 City of Columbus Human Services. **The 2021 Human Services Grant Program budget and application process has yet to be determined.**
59. I'm curious to know if in the RFP or somewhere else there is any more definition around what constitutes "caused by or in response to COVID-19." I know that for many nonprofits, there have been several challenges that COVID-19 exacerbated....I realize that ultimately it will be up to the agency to explain this, but wondering about any further guidance, if at all... **No. There is no further definition than what you will find in the RFP. See US Treasury Guidance posted on City of Columbus webpage.**
60. Are you looking for specific ways to promote long-term recovery? **No.**
61. What documentation is required for end of term expense reports? **At this point, please err on the side of saving everything you can think of including invoices, timesheets and payroll reports. The final guidelines for expenditure reports have not yet been determined.**
62. How do you define "human services"? **Agencies that provide services to vulnerable populations, whether direct (vast majority of our members) or indirect (i.e., advocacy, leadership training, managing volunteer programs--essentially supports for the direct providers.**
63. Can the County and City advocate on behalf of us to extend the Grant period beyond November the 30th, 2020? **The City and County are the ones who set the grant period dates of March 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020. It is determined by the City Auditor's timeframe for yearend fiscal activities and reporting for the CARES Act funds.**
64. So we are able to submit questions about the RFP to that email, humanserviceprograms@columbus.gov? Is there a deadline at which we are unable to ask questions? **No real deadline, questions will be answered until 4:58 pm on Monday**

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July 27, 2020. However, the earlier questions are submitted, the better. This will allow ample time for a response to be posted on the web page for everyone's benefit.